

REMARKS

In accordance with the forgoing, claims 14, 37, and 56 are canceled, claims 1, 4-7, 15, 24, 38, 47, and 49 are herewith amended, and no new claims have been added.

Entry and favorable consideration of the amendments and remarks presented herewith is earnestly solicited.

Applicants aver that the instant Response is intended to place the application in condition for allowance without introducing any issues or new matter requiring additional consideration or searching by the Examiner.

Essentially, Applicants herewith amend the claims so that all claims now depend directly or indirectly from a claim indicated as objected to but allowable if rewritten to include all limitations of the base claim (and any intervening claim(s)). The exception to the foregoing involves claim 47 - which is a means-plus-function claim – and which is herewith amended to include additional means-plus-function limitations corresponding to the other objected-to but allowable independent claims.

I. Rejections under 35 USC §112

Claims 4-7 were rejected under 35 USC § 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. Claims 4-7 are herewith amended to address the rejection. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the rejections be withdrawn.

II. Rejections under 35 USC §103

Claims 1-13, 17-20, 22, 24-36, 40-43, 45, 47-55 and 59-64 stand rejected under 35 USC § 102(b) as being anticipated by Kimchi et al. (US 5,360,123) in view of the published application of Ho et al.

As noted above the claims have been amended to render them allowable over the art of record and thus the grounds of rejection stand moot.

III. Conclusion

It is believed that all pending claims are now in condition for allowance. Applicants request that the Examiner issue a Notice of Allowance in due course so the claimed invention may timely pass to issuance as U.S. Letters Patent.

Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned attorney to attend to these matters. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiencies and credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 13-2546.

Respectfully submitted,

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